

## WOMAN SAYS PRESS, PULPIT, STAGE AND SCHOOL TO MEET SEX PROBLEM

(Editor's Note—The first great public mass meeting of women and girls to hear a lecture on sex-hygiene ever held in the whole United States has just been held in Cleveland, O., in a theater. Hundreds had to be turned away, owing to the demand for seats. The principal speaker was Dr. Minna Rohn, professor of biology. Following is Dr. Rohn's speech, which moralists declare marks a new era in the history of social ethics.)

BY DR. MINNA MARY ROHN.

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For centuries past the sex problem has been surrounded by an air of prudery and unnaturalism, but it has begun to emerge from this fog and take its place among subjects deemed worthy of serious thought and consideration.

Many forces have been at work to bring about this much desired change.

The newspapers and magazines have been particularly active along this line. More has been done by the press, during the past ten years, on subject than during the entire century preceding. You can hardly pick up a newspaper or periodical of any importance without finding some reference to one of the many phases of this big problem.

The church, too, is beginning to see the importance of this problem, and I am glad to note that many of our leading clergymen have given their support and co-operation. In Pittsburg, Rabbi Coffee sees to it that the boys and girls of his congregation are properly instructed in sex matters before they are confirmed, and even our conservative churches have mothers' clubs for the purpose of considering the sex problem. Surely this is a step in advance.

Many of our leading educators, in the third place, look upon this phase of instruction as one of the biggest problems confronting them. Of course, we still have our "doubting Thomases," but most of us feel that, as the situation is at present, we have a big problem before us and we are trying to meet it.

The stage also has seen the opportunity to teach the people many phases of this problem. Just recently we have had several teaching plays, "Damaged Goods" and "The Fight."

But all of us agree that sex instruction would be most desirable if given by an intelligent, well-informed parent. But, as matters now stand, few parents feel equal to their obligations; therefore, the press, the church and the school and the stage seem to be doing the most active and constructive work. But we must not forget that, because of this very thing, the next generation of parents will be better instructed and, there-

fore, better prepared to meet this problem. In the school room I always keep in mind that the girl before me will probably be a mother in ten years; therefore, I wish them to be prepared to meet these problems in their homes.

We have all agreed that sex instruction will be obtained. If not in the right way, then in the wrong way. Is it not much better to get the clean, sane facts of science rather than the misleading and vile information afforded by the curbstone?

In our teaching we are compelled to unteach many erroneous ideas. Some of them are responsible for the moral conditions that exist today. Among the lies responsible for the